

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 OES-06 NASA-01

NSF-01 CU-02 /058 W

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P 131245Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3870

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 3 ZAGREB 582

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, TGEN, YO

SUBJECT: US DELEGATION TO TESLA COMMEMORATION IN YUGOSLAVIA

REF: STATE 166544

1. SUMMARY: THE NIKOLA TESLA COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS BEGAN ON WEDNESDAY MORNING JULY 7 IN ZAGREB AND CONCLUDED IN GOSPIC ON JULY 10. AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN SPOKE AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES AT THE INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTEL IN ZAGREB, WHICH WE HAD UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE MAJOR EVENT OF THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF TESLA'S BIRTH. WE WERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT SUBSEQUENT EVENTS LATER IN THE WEEK AT GOSPIC AND SMILJAN WERE TO BE RELATIVELY MINOR CEREMONIES.

2. NOT UNTIL FRIDAY JULY 9 DID WE LEARN THAT CROATIAN PRESIDENT BLAZEVIC'S RECEPTION WHICH HAD BEEN CANCELED EARLIER IN THE WEEK WAS NOW SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE THAT SAME DAY IN GOSPIC. ON JULY 10 AFTER THE CEREMONIES AT TESLA'S BIRTH PLACE IN SMILJAN, THE US DELEGATION LED BY DR. JAMES FLETCHER, NASA ADMINISTRATOR, WAS INVITED TO LUNCH AN HOUR LATER WITH PRESIDENT TITO.

3. THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD BETWEEN JULY 7-10, THE SCHEDULE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSTANTLY IN FLUX AND WE WERE OFTEN GIVEN CONFLICTING INFORMATION.

NEVERTHELESS, THE US PARTICIPATION IN THE TESLA COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS MADE A MOST FAVORABLE IMPRESSION. PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE CONVEYED BY DR. FLETCHER AT THE CEREMONY IN SMILJAN WAS WARMLY RECEIVED. YUGOSLAV MEDIA GAVE CONSIDERABLE PLAY TO PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT, TO AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN'S ATTENDANCE AND TO THE PARTICIPATION OF DR. AND MRS. FLETCHER AND DR. BOGDAN MAGLICH, WHO FORMED PRESIDENT FORD'S SPECIAL DELEGATION. END SUMMARY.

4. AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN DELIVERED OPENING ADDRESS (POUCHED) AT THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION OF THE TESLA SYMPOSIUM AT THE INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTEL ZAGREB ON JULY 7. THE YUGOSLAV MEDIA PUBLICIZED THE AMBASSADOR'S ATTENDANCE. THAT SAME MORNING WE WERE TOLD THAT THE RECEPTION TO BE HOSTED BY PRESIDENT BLAZEVIC LATER THAT DAY, WAS CANCELED. THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT HE WOULD HOST A RECEPTION LATER IN THE WEEK.

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5. BECAUSE OF THE DELAY IN THEIR ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FLIGHT ABOARD THE JAT NEW YORK-ZAGREB FLIGHT, DR. AND MRS. FLETCHER ARRIVED ONLY LATER THAT SAME DAY, JULY 7, VIA KLM. DR. MAGLICH, THE OTHER MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION FROM THE US, FAILED TO CHANGE HIS PLANS AND ARRIVED EVEN LATER VIA JAT. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR DR. MAGLICH TO PRESENT HIS FILM THE NIGHT OF JULY 7, FOR DR. FLETCHER TO ADDRESS THE SYMPOSIUM THE FOLLOWING MORNING,

JULY 8, AND TO GIVE A HASTILY ARRANGED, SPECIAL BRIEFING ON THE VIKING LANDINGS TO INTERESTED SCIENTISTS AND JOURNALISTS.

6. ON LESS THAN 24 HOURS NOTICE, THE CONSUL GENERAL HOSTED A LUNCHEON FOR SOME 20 GUESTS LED BY DR. IVO MARGAN, HEAD OF THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE OF WORKING PEOPLE OF CROATIA, WHO IS EXPECTED TO LEAD THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATION TO THE TESLA CELEBRATION IN NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK, ON JULY 23; SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE YUGOSLAV ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS; PRESIDENT OF THE CROATIAN COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL RELATIONS; AND OTHERS.

7. A SPECIAL MEETING WAS HASTILY ARRANGED ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE THE EVENT FOR DRS. FLETCHER AND MAGLICH TO MEET WITH LCY SECRETARY JURE BILIC WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE YUGOSLAV COMMITTEE FOR THE TESLA CELEBRATIONS. THE INFORMAL GET TOGETHER WAS RELAXED AND PLEASANT. DR. FLETCHER GAVE BILIC A LANDSAT PHOTO OF THE ZAGREB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AREA. THAT SAME EVENING, THE PRESIDENT OF THE YUGOSLAV ACADEMY, GRGA NOVAK, HOSTED A RECEPTION FOR THE SYMPOSIUM. ON THAT OCCASION IN A SEPARATE CEREMONY, DR. FLETCHER GAVE NOVAK A LANDSAT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE DALMATIAN COAST.

8. ON FRIDAY, JULY 9, THE US DELEGATION LEFT FOR PLITVICE AND ONLY AFTER ARRIVAL THERE AT NOONTIME WAS TOLD THAT CROATIAN PRESIDENT BLAZEVIC WAS TO HOLD A RECEPTION IN GOSPIC, AN HOUR AND 45 MINUTES TRAVEL AWAY, AT 4:00 PM. OTHER EVENTS THAT SAME NIGHT IN GOSPIC WERE ADDED ON AN AD HOC BASIS.

9. ON SATURDAY, JULY 10, IN SMILJAN, PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE WAS CONVEYED PUBLICLY BY DR. FLETCHER. FAVORABLE REACTIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL WERE IMMEDIATE: PRESIDENT TITO AND HIS CHEF DE CABINET EXPRESSED PERSONALLY TO FLETCHER THEIR REGRETS AT NOT HAVING HEARD PREVIOUSLY OF THIS MESSAGE, DUE TO SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT ARRANGEMENTS, AND ASKED FLETCHER TO CARRY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT. (NOTE: WE HAD IN FACT PREVIOUSLY PASSED THE WORD ABOUT PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE TO THE FEC LIAISON OFFICER, MILAN BULAJIC, FORMER YUGOSLAV CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK, BUT APPARENTLY INTERNAL YUGOSLAV COMMUNICATIONS BROKE DOWN.) THE FOLLOWING DAY, PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE WAS CARRIED ON THE FRONT PAGE IN ZAGREB'S MAJOR DAILY, "VJESNIK," AND IN "BORBA."

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10. AFTER THE SMILJAN CEREMONY, THE US DELEGATION WAS INVITED TO LUNCH ONE HOUR LATER WITH TITO. BEFORE THE LUNCHEON, PRESIDENT TITO AND MADAME BROZ ENGAGED THE MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION IN A WARM, LENGTHY, INFORMAL CHAT. AT THE SAME TIME, TITO ACCEPTED FROM DR. FLETCHER THREE LANDSAT COLOR PHOTOS OF YUGOSLAV TERRITORY. TITO GAVE BOTH THE MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION SIGNED POLAROID PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH TITO HAD PERSONALLY TAKEN OF THE CROWDS AT THE CEREMONY EARLIER THAT MORNING.

11. LCY SECRETARY JURE BILIC GAVE THE US DELEGATION A GOLD TESLA MEDAL TO BE TRANSMITTED TO PRESIDENT FORD. TWO SUCH GOLD MEDALS WERE REPORTEDLY SPECIALLY STRUCK: ONE FOR TITO AND ONE FOR PRESIDENT FORD.

12. COMMENT: DR. FLETCHER PERSONALLY STIRRED WIDE-SPREAD INTEREST AS HEAD OF NASA, CARRYING THE LATEST NEWS OF THE VIKING MISSIONS. HIS PRESS CONFERENCE HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 8, RECEIVED COVERAGE THE SAME EVENING ON TV ZAGREB' 7 PM NEWS SHOW AND THE NEXT DAY IN "BORBA" AND RESULTED IN TWO LOCAL RADIO INTERVIEWS AND ONE INTERVIEW FOR CROATIA'S NEWS MAGAZINE, "VUS."

13. ALL MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE US DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES WAS EXCELLENT: THE THREE ZAGREB DAILIES ("BORBA," "VJESNIK,"
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"VECERNJI LIST") ALONE CARRIED A TOTAL OF 13 STORIES MENTIONING THE DELEGATION; THERE WAS LIVE RADIO AND TV COVERAGE THROUGHOUT

YUGOSLAVIA OF THE TESLA 120TH ANNIVERSARY DAY SPEECHES, REPEATED
IN SUMMARY ON THE SATURDAY EVENING NEWS.

14. HIGH-RANKING YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT AND PARTY FIGURES, INCLUDING
PRIME MINISTER BIJEDIC, CROATIAN PRESIDENT BLAZEVIC AND LCY
SECRETARY BILIC, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CONSUL
GENERAL EXPRESSED THEIR PLEASURE THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE US
HAD SO HONORED THE OCCASION BY SENDING A DELEGATION, CONSISTING OF
DR. JAMES FLETCHER AND DR. BOGDAN MAGLICH, WHO CARRIED A SPECIAL
PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE. KAISER

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